

Chapter 7
DISCONTINUATION OF SERVICES, GRADUATION, AND GRADING

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DISCONTINUATION OF SERVICES, GRADUATION, AND GRADING

Section 1. Discontinuation of Services

A. Students Who Are No Longer Entitled to Services

The district will follow appropriate procedures to discontinue special education services to students who are no longer entitled to those services.

1. Student No Longer Meets Eligibility Criteria

If it is suspected that a student no longer meets the eligibility criteria for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA 2004), the evaluation team will conduct a reevaluation and arrange to have additional assessments conducted if necessary. If the student is no longer eligible, the district will provide the parent and adult student with written notice of this decision prior to discontinuing special education services.

2. Student Completes Requirements for a High School Diploma

The district's obligation to provide special education services ends when the student meets the district and state requirements that apply to all students for receipt of a high school diploma without adaptations. Although this is considered a change of placement, a reevaluation is not required. Prior to graduation and the discontinuation of special education services the district shall:

- a. provide the parent and/or adult student with written notice the district's obligation to provide special education services ends when the student obtains a regular high school diploma; and
- b. provide the parent and/or adult student with a written summary of academic achievement and functional performance which shall include recommendations to assist the student in meeting his or her postsecondary goals. This summary is known as the Summary of Performance (SOP).

3. Student Reaches Maximum Age

For students who have not yet graduated from high school by meeting requirements without adaptations to regular graduation requirements, the district's obligation to provide special education services ends at the completion of the semester in which the student turns 21 years of age. This is considered a change of placement that does not require a reevaluation. If a student is turning 21, the district shall:

- a. provide the parent and/or adult student with written notice the district's obligation to provide special education services ends at the completion of the semester in which the student turns 21 years of age; and
- b. provide the parent and/or adult student written summary of academic achievement and functional performance which shall include recommendations to assist the student in meeting his or her postsecondary goals. This summary is known as the Summary of Performance (SOP).

B. Change in District Obligation to Provide Services

Under certain circumstances, a student may continue to be eligible for special education services, but the district's obligation to provide services changes.

1. Transfer to Another District

When a student moves out of the district, the district will forward the student's special education records electronically or by mail within 10 calendar days of the request from the new district. The records shall include, at least, the student's most recent individualized education program (IEP) and eligibility documentation. The sending district will retain copies or originals of the most recent 5 years of records, including IEPs and eligibility documentation. During an audit, Child Count verification, or monitoring, this documentation may be needed to demonstrate that the student was eligible for special education and received special education services from the district.

2. Enrollment in Private School or Receives Home Schooling

When a parent and/or adult student withdraws a student from public school and enrolls him or her in a private school or provides home schooling, the district's responsibilities vary depending on the circumstances. See Chapter 9 for more information.

3. Dropouts

When a student drops out of school, written notice will be sent to the parent and/or adult student and a copy of the notice will be placed in the student's special education confidential file. If the student reenrolls and is still eligible for special education, the previous IEP can be implemented if it is current and appropriate. A new IEP shall be developed if needed.

C. Request for Withdrawal from Special Education

When a parent and/or adult student requests withdrawal from special education services, an evaluation team shall determine whether the student is still eligible for special education services. Written notice shall be sent to the parent and/or adult student following the determination of whether or not the student is still eligible to receive special education services.

If the evaluation team determines that the student is still eligible for special education, the district will continue to provide services unless SDE mediation or a due process hearing decision determines otherwise.

Section 2. Graduation

Graduation means meeting district and state requirements for receipt of a high school diploma. If a student is not granted a regular high school diploma or if the high school diploma is granted based on completion of adapted graduation requirements, the student is entitled to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE) through the semester in which he or she turns 21 years of age or determined no longer eligible as a result of a reevaluation. A General Education Development (GED) certificate does not meet district requirements that are comparable to a regular high school diploma. The IEP team making these decisions shall include a district representative knowledgeable about state and local graduation requirements.

A. Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team Requirements regarding Graduation

1. Determine whether the student will meet all state and local requirements to be eligible to graduate from high school and anticipated graduation date.
2. Develop the course of study in collaboration with the Parent Approved Student Learning Plan required for every student prior to the end of 8th grade.
3. Beginning no later than the end of the student's 9th grade, the IEP team shall review annually the student's course of study. The IEP team shall identify and make changes to the course of study needed for the student to meet graduation requirements .
4. The IEP team shall document any accommodations and adaptations made to the district's and state's regular graduation requirements on the student's behalf.
 - a. Graduation Requirements with Accommodations

Accommodations to graduation requirements are determined by the IEP team and are deemed necessary for the student to complete graduation requirements.
Further:

- 1) Accommodations to graduation requirements must specifically address completion of the student's secondary program.
- 2) Accommodations will maintain the same level of rigor to the district and state graduation requirements. For example, a teacher may use different instructional strategies or alternate methods for assessing the student's acquisition of skills that are equally rigorous.

- 3) Accommodations made to any district or state graduation requirement shall be stated in the student's IEP.

b. Graduation Requirements with Adaptations

Long-term consequences for the student shall be considered when adaptations are made to graduation requirements. Further:

- 1) Adaptations to graduation requirements shall specifically address completion of the student's secondary program.
- 2) Adaptations may alter the level of rigor required in the district or state graduation requirements. Examples of adaptations include changes made to course content, objectives, or grading standard that alter the level of rigor.
- 3) Adaptations of any district or state graduation requirement shall be stated on the student's IEP. The team should discuss with the parents the effect of adaptations on regular education diploma and FAPE.

5. Demonstration of Proficiency of State Achievement Standards State Board of Education rule (IDAPA 08.02.03.105.03) requires a demonstration of proficiency regarding the 10th-Grade Idaho Achievement Standards as a condition of graduation. Each student receiving special education services will include as part of his or her IEP a statement of how the student will demonstrate proficiency in the Idaho Achievement Standards as a condition of graduation. If the method is different than meeting proficient or advanced scores on the high school ISAT or an IAA, a student with an IEP may meet this requirement by:

- a. achieving the proficient or advanced score on the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) or, for eligible students, on the IAA; or
- b. using the local alternate route established by the local school board as an alternate method of demonstrating proficiency; or
- c. completing alternate graduation requirements outlined in the IEP.

B. Graduation Ceremonies

A special education student who completes his or her secondary program through meeting graduation requirements or criteria established on his or her IEP will be afforded the same opportunity to participate in graduation ceremonies, senior class trips, etc., as students without disabilities.

Section 3. Transcripts and Diplomas

A. Transcript

The transcript serves as a record of individual accomplishments, achievements, and courses completed. Transcripts shall adhere to the following conditions:

1. Accommodations that allow the student to complete and demonstrate that he or she has met graduation requirements will not be noted on the transcript.
2. Adapted course work may be noted on the transcript if the parent and/or adult student is informed in advance and the designation is not discriminatory. More specifically, cannot identify the student as having a disability or receiving special education.
3. Course designations, titles, or symbols that are used solely to identify adapted course work that is taken by students with disabilities will not be used.

B. Diploma

1. For students who are eligible for special education services, the district will issue a high school diploma at the completion of their secondary program; this includes students who meet the graduation requirements with accommodations and/or adaptations.
2. A modified or differentiated diploma or certificate may not be used for students who are eligible for special education unless the same diploma or certificate is granted to students without disabilities in the same graduating class.

Section 4. Grades, Class Ranking, and Honor Roll

Grades earned by students with disabilities will not be categorically disregarded or excluded from district wide grade point average (GPA) standing. The district may establish objective criteria for class rankings, honors, etc., that weight courses according to degree of difficulty or exclude non core courses so long as such practices are nondiscriminatory. The district may use contracts with a student to establish grading criteria.

